IMT Nuremberg Archives

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International Court of Justice

13 pages

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Com. A
Take 1-Pg. 1
Meehan
13 June, 1946.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANTTO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

13 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. George R. Taylor.

THE SS.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1000 HOURS.)

HEINZ JOACHIM GRAF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: You are reminded that you are still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION RESUMED.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q While you were in Berlin were you in the same office as the Medical and Biological departments of the army?

A My first office was situated in Marburg a/d Lahn and the second place I worked was in Horn Lippe where there were no medical departments or biological departments.

Q Did you work also in Berlin?

A No, never.

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Q But you know that in Berlin there was the medical and biological departments?

A As far as I know there was neither a medical or a biological department within the Berlinearea until after the outbreak of war.

Q Did you know of a man called Mentzel?

A I knew Mr. Mentzel by name. He was the president of the Reichs Research Council.

Q Was he in connection with the Ahnenerbe?

A The manager of this Reichs Bureau was SS Standartenfuht W. Sievers and he later became the deputy of the President of the Reichs Research Council.

Q As I understand, both organizations worked closely together or in connection with each other?

A I only knew of a connection. I know of a personnel union of these two organizations.

Q Do you know whether experiments were carried out by certain branches of the Ahnenerbe and for this purpose use was made of certain inmates of concentration camps.

A After the end of the war, I learned through the Allied and German press that such experiments were alleged to have been carried out.

Q Do you know Professor Hirt?

A I do not know either his name or his work.

Q Do you know at what time Sievers took over as deputy of the President of the Reichs Research Council?

A The former SS Standartenfuhrer W. Sievers is present here in the witness wing of the prison. It would be much better to ask him.

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Q I don't think it is up to you to suggest the question, but to answer the questions, which I put to you. According to your recollection, what time did Sievers become president of the Reichs Research Department?

A Please excuse my suggestion. I believe that he became the deputy during the war.

Q Could you give me a more precise indication as to what time?

A No.

Q How do you know that he became the deputy?

A Those members of the Ahnenerbe, who were at the front, received the annual reports about the activities of the Ahnernerbe at home.

Q So, you received this information about Sievers becoming the deputy of the president of the Reichs Reserve Department, did you not?

A I believe that is the source of my information, but I cannot remember at what time. Because of my work and activities as a soldier, I had only very loose connections with the Ahnernerbe during the war.

Q Do you know the year he was appointed to this position?

A I believe it was in 1941, but I cannot say this exactly.

Q In what form did the members of the Ahnernerbe receive information about the organization during the war?

A This information was received in the form on an annual work report that was always sent out at Christmas time, but which did not contain information of a confidential nature.

Q And this bulletin give you also the changes within the organization of the personnel staff of the Ahnernerbe?

A No.

Q Would it give you a general report of the activities of the

H0939-0005

Ahnenerbe?

A This bulletin contained only general news items. For example, saying that the Reichfuhrer SS had trusted or charged the Ahnenerbe with additional research work

Q The research work of the medical and biological plan was not discussed in the bulletin?

A None of the bulletins which I received contained such information. You must remember that these bulletins were sent to me, I was not at home and they were forwarded to me perhaps by my wife. When I received them I had other matters to think over and only scanned through them briefly.

Q How long were you in Berlin during the war?

A From November, 1941 until August 15, 1943 until I was transferred to the Fifth Mountain Corps in November 1944 until the Russian advance toward the Oder.

Q During your stay in Berlin, you were not in touch any more with the Ahnenerbe?

A During this entire time, I only had two very brief contacts with the Ahnenerbe.

Q On what occasions?

A On the first occasion, a conversation with SS Oberfuehrer Prof. Dr. Walter Weist proposing that one of his people be transferred to us as an interpretor. Prof. Dr. Weist was second chairman or trustee of the Ahnenerbe.

Q When was the second occasion?

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A On the second occasion, I went to the Reichs Research Office of the Ahnenerbe in order to ask the officers to be kind enough to place the building or buildings in Hoon and Lippe at my disposal, so that I could transfer my interpretors from the danger area of Berlin to a place safe from air raids.

Q What were the branches housed in Lippe?

A Several research departments of the Ahnenerbe were housed and among them my own department.

Q What were the branches of research?

A There were two other departments (1) The research and antique department and (2) German psycology and Civilization department.

Q Any others?

A There was another department that concerned itself with research work on the Eggsteinsteine, which was supposed to be an old German Sacred Temple or Sanctuary.

Q Is that all - no other departments?

A No.

Q No departments of literal science?

A No not up until the time I entered the Waffen SS. I do not know anything about the events which took place after that.

Q I will ask a few questions about your military activities. In what theatres have you been?

A From June, 22, 1941 until October 8, 1941, I was in Soviet Russia.

Q In what district?

A Only in the Ukraine.

Q And afterwards?

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A Later I was in the southwestern Balkans from February 3, 1944 to October 14, 1944.

Q That is all?

A Yes.

Q Did the interpreters have any instructions insofar as the intentions were concerned especially as to how to interrogate Prisoners of War?

A Yes, the interrogation of prisoners was carried out very carefully in the interpretor's schools and in the company.

Q Who were the teachers for this part of the instructions?

A There were many teachers, one almost for every language, whose training had been received in part by myself or by the Interpretor's Department of the high grade of the ground troops.

Q Did you have teachers coming from the Army?

A Not up to August 15, 1943. I cannot say anything as to the later dates.

Q From the Zipo?

A No.

Q From the SD?

A No, also.

Q Who gave you in the schools for interpretors the general lines and the general information about the way to interrogate Prisoners of War and which were the proper points to bring out, etc.

A Up to the time that I left our general directives and instructions were sent to us by the Interpretor's Department of the High Command of the ground troops.

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Q When the Prisoners of War were captured, I mean Commandoes or members of Commando groups, they were handed over to your section?

A They were interrogated with the Department I-C.

Q To what general organization did this Department belong?

A The I-C department is a part of the Technical Operations Staff.

Q Of the Waffen SS?

A Yes.

Q In this Branch, the I.C. did you also have representatives of the army and the Waffen SS.

A I can say the following from personal experience. Very often officers were sent to the corps by the army, who were to carry out more difficult interrogations as ordnance officers.

Q Those members of the I-C, were they sometimes also members of the SD?

A No, in Marburg.

Q Do you know of any other units where it was so?

A No.

Q To whom did you hand over the members of the Command groups after the interrogations?

A The members of the Allied Commandos were sent, after the interrogation, to the army im important cases and in lesser important cases, they were turned over to the Prisoner of War Camps in the Reich.

Q When you were in Prussia, your unit was fighting against the Soviet army on the front lines or was it fighting against the partisan groups?

A In 1941 until the time I left the unit I fought exclusively in the

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front lines against units of the Red Army.

Q Was your unit in contact with the Einsatzgruppen?

A I had occasion to tell you yesterday that the term "Einsatzgruppen" is a strange one to me.

Q I have no further questions.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q You said you were in the east in 1941, is this correct?

A Yes.

Q Later on you were in Russia?
A Yes.
Q Do you mean by the Russian front, the territory proper of the U.S.S.R.? Do you know of the directives issued by the Army High Command regarding the use of measures of force against the native population of the occupied eastern territory?

DR. KOESSEL: One question has not been answered by the witness. The question is do you mean by the Russian front the territory proper of the U.S.R.R.

MR. TAYLOR: If counsel desires to have the question answered, he may do so. If not, he may leave it unanswered.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q Please answer.

A I became acquainted with the Russian front only in the territory proper of Russia.

Q Are you acquainted with the measures or instructions by the Army High Command regarding the measures of force and violence to be applied to the

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natives of the occupied territory, especially in the eastern occupied territory.

(COLONEL ORLOV SHOWS THE WITNESS A DOCUMENT.)

A When I was a soldier at the Russian front, my rank did not enable me to have access to any such orders. I was at the front, I did not know of this order and I did not hear of it until after Germany collapsed. I am ready to testify that in my company in the southeast this measure was not carried out and I so testified yesterday. Excesses by soldiers on the native population were severely punished.

Q About which order do you speak?

A I am speaking of the order which the Russian prosecutor just showed to me.

Q Do you know anything about the directives of the Army High Command of the ground troops concerning the treatment of political officers, issued on March 31, 1941. I shall show it to you.

(COLONEL ORLOV SHOWS THE WITNESS A DOCUMENT.)

A No, I could not know anything of this order, as it is for Chief Sievers and it was a secret order and was only known as far down as the commanding general and his representative, the Chief of Staff.

Q Did you know nothing of this order issued by the Reichesufhrer SS and giving directives by the Fuehrer concerning the behaviour toward partisan combatants?

A At the time this order was issued, I was not with the unit and this would be a secret command matter which also like the previous one is not accessable to me.

Q Do you know anything of this decree of the Fuehrer to the Army High Command concerning penalties issued on December 10, 1941 in which

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it says that for one German killed, 1,500 Russians have to be killed? Unfortunately I only have the English copy of this Document.

A I did not hear of this order until considerably later on when we worked out the new army service instructions. No. 69 was only issued in 40 copies and was given only to the veryhighest secret ranking officer.

Q With which army group did you serve in this front?

A With the Army Group ~~xxxxxx~~ six.

Q Who was commander in chief of this army?

A As far as I know Generaldfeldmarschal V. Rundstedt.

Q Did you hear of any order issued by General Reichenau in which he said that in the east a human life is worth ~~nn~~thing?

A I did not hear of this order until I spoke to comrades here in the witness wing window of the prison.

Q Did you never receive this order from the General Staff of the Army?

A I did not enter a higher staff until August 15, 1943 and with our group in the southeast this order was not known.

DR. KOESSEL: General Reichenau was only an army leader or commander. I don't know what connection General Reichenau had with this order.

MR. TAYLOR: We will let ~~the~~ counsel proceed with the question and let the answer determine if there is any connection.

BY COLONEL ORLOVE:

Q Did you not know this order of General Reichenau, who was the commander in chief of the 6th Army was approved by the Fuehrer himself and also sent to all army groups?

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A In conversations that I had with comrades of the General Command, such orders that were not signed were discussed and we, too speak quite frankly, termed them as pure nonsense.

Q Yesterday, you said that some SS men carried on criminal activities against the civilian population and were punished, is that true?

A Yes.

Q Have you ever heard of the expression to "organize" something? For example, to "organize" a cow.

A Yes.

Q In this sense did you hear this word used to mean stealing?

A This German slang word "to organize" was a soldier's word and it can have two interpretations from a local point of view. It can mean (1) Stealing something and (2) Getting hold of an object in a territory where there possibly was no civilian population and would not be any civilian population for some time to come.

Q Were your soldiers punished for such"organizing"or not?

A If the civilian population could prove that the object concerned had been taken away illegally, then the person was legally tried.

Q Do you know of any cases where Prisoners of War were beaten and clubbed to death?

A As long as I was a member of this staff, no Prisoner of War was ever beaten or not even subjected to the third degree interrogations. I want to say by this staff or any of its subordinate divisional staffs.

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Q Why are you so very certain as to what happened in other divisions?

A I am able to maintain this so definitely, because I myself was an eye witness as far as my own staff was concerned. Insofar as the other divisional subordinate staff, I know that the commanding general issued instructions and I was particularly anxious to seeto it that no excesses took place. Of course, I cannot testify for certain if one or two excesses took place in our subordinate divisional staffs, of which I had no knowledge.

Q What orders concerning third degree interrogations do you know of?

A Not a single one.

Q Why did you say that you did not carry on third degree interrogations in your unit? How do you know this term "third degree interrogations?"

A This term, "third degree interrogations" was discussed very lively when the Departments of the Wehrmacht and Waffen SS 1-C when material was sent to us by the High Command of the Ground troops in which the enemy alleged that such third degree interrogations had been carried out within the Wehrmacht. In this material sent to us, the High Commande of the Ground troops submitted examples showing that the enemy was supposed to have made use of such third degree interrogations.

Q Did you hear anything concerning the instructions of the Himmler decree concerning the treatment of political enemies?

A I heard of this matter here in the prisoner's wing when V. dem Bach Silewski on the occasion of his examination mentioned that Himmler was supposed to have given a speech on the Wewelsburg with this content.

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Q And you heard nothing of this order before that?

A There was a rumor that was spread in which the Reichsfuehrer SS was supposed to have used this term, which was hearsay, "there are thirty million Slavs too many."

Q That is all.

MR. TAYLOR: Does the Defense Counsel have any further questions to ask the witness.

DR. KOESSEL: Only one question. You have mentioned your Department I*C. By Department I-C do you mean as such a department that was attached to all Wehrmacht and Waffen SS units, or did you mean only one I-C department - only an SS department?

THE WITNESS: When I mentioned Department I-C, I naturally meant the Department that is attached to all military units in German as well as fo all foreign armies attached to the ground forces, the navy, the air force and the Waffen SS.

MR. TAYLOR: The witness will be excused.

(THE COMMISSION RECESSED AT 1120 HOURS.)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of HEINZ JOACHIM GRAF, taken on 13 June, 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter 1-13

Reporter

CERTIFIED TO: Geo. R. Taylor
Commissioner.

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

13 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. George R. Taylor.

THE WITNESS.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1000 HOURS)

HEINZ JOACHIN GRAF, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: You are reminded that you are still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION RESUMED.

BY M. MONNERAY:

Q. While you were in Berlin were you in the same office as the Medical and Biological departments of the army?

A. My first office was situated in Marburg a/d Lahn and the second place I worked was in Horn Lippe where there were no medical departments or biological departments.

Q. Did you work also in Berlin?

A. No, never.

Q. But you know that in Berlin there was the medical and biological departments?

A. As far as I know there neither a medical or a biological department within the Berlin area until after the outbreak of war.

Q. Did you know of a man called Mentzel?

A. I know Mr. Mentzel by name. He was the president of the Reichs Research Council.

Q. Was he in connection with the Ahnenerbe?

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A. The manager of this Reichs Bureau was SS Standartenfuhr W. Sievers and he later became the deputy of the President of the Reichs Research Council.

Q. As I understand, both organizations worked closely together or in connection with each other?

A. I only know of a connection. I know of a personnel union of these two organizations.

Q. Do you know whether experiments were carried out by certain branches of the Ahnenerbe and for this purpose use was made of certain inmates of concentration camps.

A. After the end of the war, I learned through the Allied and German press that such [illegible] were alleged to have been carried out.

Q. Do you know Professor Hirt?

A. I do not know either his name or his work.

Q. Do you know at what time Sievers took over as deputy of the President of the Reichs Research Council?

A. The former SS Standartenfuhrer W. Sievers is present here in the witness wing of the prison. It would be much better to ask him.

Q. I don't think it is up to you to suggest the question, but to answer the questions which I put to you. According to your recollection, what time did Sievers become president of the Reichs Research Department?

A. Please excuse my suggestion. I believe that he became the deputy during the war.

Q. Could you give me a more precise indication as to what time?

A. No.

Q. How do you know that he became the deputy?

A. Those members of the Ahnenerbe, who were at the front, received the annual reports about the activities of the Ahnenerbe at home.

Q. So, you received this information about Sievers becoming the deputy of the president of the Reichs Research Department,

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did you not?

A. I believe that is the source of my information, but I cannot remember at what time. Because of my work and activities as a soldier, I had only very loose connections with the Ahnenerbe during the war.

Q. Do you know the year he was appointed to this position?

A. I believe it was in 1941, but I cannot say this exactly.

Q. In what form did the members of the Ahnenerbe receive information about the organization during the war?

A. This information was received in the form of an annual work report that was always sent out at Christmas time, but which did not contain information of a confidential nature.

Q. And this bulletin gave you also the changes within the organization of the personnel staff of the Ahnenerbe?

A. No.

Q. Would it give you a general report of the activities of the

H0939 - 0018

Ahnenerbe?

A This bulletin contained only general news items. For example, saying that the Reichfuehrer SS had trusted or charged the Ahnenerbe with additional research work.

Q The research work of the medical and biological plan was not discussed in the bulletin?

A None of the bulletins which I received contained such information. You must remember that these bulletins were sent to me, I was not at home and they were forwarded to me perhaps by my wife. When I received them I had other matters to think over and only scanned through them briefly.

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Q During your stay in Berlin, you were not in touch any more with the Ahnenerbe?

A During this entire time, I only had two very brief contacts with the Ahnenerbe.

Q On what occasions?

A On the first occasion, a conversation with SS Oberfuehrer Prof. Dr. Walter Weist proposing that one of his people be transferred to us as an interpretor. Prof. Dr. Weist was second chairman or trustee of the Ahnenerbe.

Q When was the second occasion?

A On the second occasion, I went to the Reichs Research Office of the Ahnenerbe in order to ask the officers to be kind enough to place the building or buildings in Hoon and Lippe at my disposal, so that I could transfer my interpretors from the danger area of Berlin to a place safe from air raids.

Q What were the branches housed in Lippe?

A Several research departments of the Ahnenerbe were housed and among them my own department.

Q What were the branches of research?

A There were two other departments (1) The research and antique

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department and (2) German psycology and Civilization department.

Q Any others?

A There was another department that concerned itself with research work on the Eggstein, which was supposed to be an old German Sacred Temple or Sanctuary.

Q Is that all - no other departments?

A No.

Q No departments of literaly science?

A No, not up until the time I entered the Waffen SS. I do not know anything about the events which took place after that.

Q I will ask a few questions about your military activities. In what theatres have you been?

A From June 22, 1941 until October 8, 1941, I was in Soviet Russia.

Q In what district?

A Only in the Ukraine.

Q And afterwards?

A Later I was in the southwestern Balkans from February 3, 1944 to October 14, 1944.

Q That is all?

A Yes.

Q Did the interpreters have any instructions insofar as the intentions were concerned especially as to how to interrogate Prisoners of War?

A Yes, the interrogation of prisoners was carried out very carefully in the interpretor's schools and in the company.

Q Who were the teachers for this part of the instructions?

A There were many teachers, one almost for every language, whose training had been received in part by myself or by the Interpretor's Department of the high grade of the ground troops.

Q Did you have teachers coming from the Army?

A Not up to August 15, 1943. I cannot say anything as to the later dates.

Q From the Zipo?

A No.

Q From the SD?

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A No, also.

Q Who gave you in the schools for interpretors the general lines and the general information about the way to interrogate Prisoners of War and which were the proper points to bring out, etc.

A Up to the time that I left our general directives and instructions were sent to us by the Interpretor's Department of the High Command of the ground troops.

Q. When the Prisoners of War were captured, I mean Commandoes or members of Commando groups, they were handed over to your section ?

A. They were interrogated with the Department I-C.

Q. To what general organization did this Department belong ?

A. The I-C department is a part of the Technical Operations Staff.

Q. Of the Waffen SS ?

A. Yes.

Q. In this Branch, the I-C did you also have representatives of the army and the Waffen SS ?

A. I can say the following from personal experience. Very often officers were sent to the corps by the army, who were to carry out more difficult interrogations as ordnance officers.

Q. Those members of the I-C, were they sometimes also members of the SD ?

A. Not in Salzburg.

Q. Do you know of any other units where it was so ?

A. No.

Q. To whom did you hand over the members of the Command groups after the interrogations ?

A. The members of the Allied Commandos were sent, after the interrogation to the army in important cases and in lesser important cases, they were turned over to the Prisoner of War Camps in the Reich.

Q. When you were in Russia, your unit was fighting against the Soviet army on the front lines or was it fighting against the partisan groups ?

A. In 1941 until the time I left the unit I fought exclusively in the front lines against units of the Red Army.

Q. Was your unit in contact with the Einsatzgruppen ?

A. I had occasion to tell you yesterday that the term "Einsatzgruppen" is a strange one to me.

Q. I have no further questions.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q. You said you were in the east in 1941, is this correct ?

A. Yes.

Q. Later on you were in Russia ?

A. Yes.

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Q. Do you mean by the Russian front, the territory proper of the U.S.S.R. ? Do you know of the directives issued by the Army High Command regarding the use of measures of force against the native population of the occupied eastern territory ?

DR. KOESSEL: One question has not been answered by the witness. The question is do you mean by the Russian front the territory proper of the U.S.S.R. ?

MR. TAYLOR: If counsel desires to have the question answered, he may do so. If not, he may leave it unanswered.

BY COLONEL ORLOV:

Q. Please answer.

A. I became acquainted with the Russian front only in the territory proper of Russia.

Q. Are you acquainted with the measures or instructions by the Army High Command regarding the measures of force and violence to be applied to the natives of the occupied territory, especially in the eastern occupied territory.

(COLONEL ORLOV SHOWS THE WITNESS A DOCUMENT.)

A. When I was a soldier at the Russian front, my rank did not enable me to have access to any such orders. I was at the front, I did not know of this order and I did not hear of it until after Germany collapsed. I am ready to testify that in my company in the southeast this measure was not carried out and I so testified yesterday. Excesses by soldiers on the native population were severely punished.

Q. About which order do you speak ?

A. I am speaking of the order which the Russian prosecutor jus showed to me.

Q. Do you know anything about the directives of the Army High Command of the ground troops concerning the treatment of political officers, issued on March 31, 1941. I shall show it to you.

(COLONEL ORLOV SHOWS THE WITNESS A DOCUMENT.)

A. No, I could not know anything of this order, as it is for Chief Sievers and it was a secret order and was only known as far down as the commanding general and his representative, the Chief of Staff.

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Q. Did you know nothing of this order issued by the Reichesufhrer SS and giving directives by the Fuehrer concerning the behaviour toward partisan combatants ?

A. At the time this order was issued, I was not with the unit and this would be a secret command matter which also like the previous one is not accessable to me.

Q. Do you know anything of this decree of the Fuehrer to the Army High Command concerning penalties issued on December 10, 1941 in which

it says that for one German killed, 1,500 Russians have to be killed? Unfortunately I only have the English copy of this document.

A. I did not hear of this order until considerably later on when we worked out the new army service instructions. No.69 was only issued in 40 copies and was given only to the very highest secret ranking officer.

Q. With which army group did you serve in this front?

A. With the army group six.

Q. Who was commander in chief of this army?

A. As far as I know Generalfeldmarschal v.Rundstedt.

Q. Did you heat of any order issued by General Reichenau in which he said that in the east a human life is worth nothing?

A. I did not hear of this order until I spoke to comrades here in the witness wing of the prison.

Q. Did you never receive this order from the General Staff of the Army?

A. I did not enter a higher staff until August 15, 1943 and with our group in the southeast this order was not known.

DR. KUBUSCHOK: General Reichenau was only an army leader or commander. I don't know what connection General Reichenau had with this order.

MR. TAYLOR: We will let counsel proceed with the question and let the answer determine if there is any connection.

COLONEL ORLOVE:

Q. Did you not know this order of General Reichenau, who was the commander in chief of the 6th army was approved by the Fuehrer himself and also sent to all army groups?

A. In conversations that I had with comrades of the General Command, such orders that were not signed were discussed and we, too speak quite frankly, termed them as pure nonsense.

Q. Yesterday, you said that some SS men carried on criminal activities against the civilian population and were punished, is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever heard of the expression to "organize" something? For example, to "organize" a cow.

A. Yes.

Q. In this sense did you hear this word used to mean stealing?

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A This German slang word "to organize" was a soldiers' word and it can have two interpretations from a local point of view. It can mean (1) Stealing something and (2) Getting hold of an object in a territory where there possibly was no civilian population and would not be any civilian population for some time to come.

Q Were your soldiers punished for such "organizing" or not?

A If the civilian population could prove that the object concerned had been taken away illegally, then the person was legally tried.

Q Do you know any cases where Prisoners of War were beaten and clubbed to death?

A As long as I was a member of this staff, no Prisoner of War was ever beaten or not even subjected to the third degree interrogations. I want to say by this staff or any of its subordinate divisional staffs.

H0939 – 0026

Q. Why are you so very certain as to what happened in other divisions?

A. I am able to maintain this so definitely, because I myself was an eye witness as far as my own staff was concerned. Insofar as the other divisional subordinate staff, I know that the commanding general issued instructions and I was particularly anxious to see to it that no excesses took place. Of course, I cannot testify for certain if one or two excesses took place in our subordinate divisional staffs, of which I had no knowledge.

Q. What orders concerning third degree interrogations do you know of?

A. Not a single one.

Q. Why did you say that you did not carry on third degree interrogations in your unit? How do you know this term "third degree interrogations?"

A. This term, "third degree interrogations" was discussed very lively when the Departments of the Wehrmacht and Waffen SS 1-C when material was sent to us by the High Command of the Ground troops in which the enemy alleged that such third decree interrogations had been carried out within the Wehrmacht. In this material sent to us, the High Command of the Ground troops submitted examples showing that the enemy was supposed to have made use of such third degree interrogations.

Q. Did you hear anything concerning the instructions of the Himmler decree concerning the treatment of political enemies?

A. I heard of this matter here in the prisoner's wing when V. dem Bach Silewski on the occasion of his examination mentioned that Himmler was supposed to have given a speech on the Wewelsburg with this content.

Q. And you heard nothing of this order before that?

A. There was a rumor that was spread in which the Reichsfuehrer SS was supposed to have used this term, which was hearsay, "there are thirty million Slavs too many".

Q. That is all.

MR. TAYLOR: Does the Defense Counsel have any further questions to ask the witness?

DR. KOESSEL: Only one question. You have mentioned your Department 1-C. By Department 1-C do you mean as such a department that was attached to

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all Wehrmacht and Waffen SS units, or did you mean only one 1-C department - only an SS department?

THE WITNESS: When I mentioned Department 1-C, I naturally meant the Department that is attached to all military units in German as well as to all foreign armies attached to the ground forces, the navy, the air force and the Waffen SS.

MR. TAYLOR: The witness will be excused.

(THE COMMISSION RECESSED AT 1120 HOURS.)

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of HEINZ JOACHIM GRAF, taken on 13 June 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter (pp.

CERTIFIED TO:

George R. Taylor
Commissioner.

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13. Juni-A/Schw-1-Röder

Amtliche Niederschrift der Zeugenaussagen über angeklagte Organisationen der vom Internationalen Militärgerichtshof am 13. März 1946 gemäss Paragraph 4 ernannten Kommission.

Donnerstag, den 13. Juni 1946 10.00-11.30

Beauftragte: MR. GEORGE R. TAYLOR

ORGANISATION: SS

Der Zeuge Dr. Heinz Joachim G R A F betritt den Verhandlungsraum.

Fortsetzung des Kreuzverhörs durch Mr. MCNEARY.

VORSITZENDER: Sie wissen, Herr Zeuge, dass Sie noch unter Eid stehen?

A: Jawohl.

MR. MCNEARY: War in Ihrer Berliner Dienststelle zugleich auch die medizinische und biologische Abteilung der Wehrmacht?

A: Ich arbeitete zuerst in der Dienststelle in Marburg an der Lahn und später in der Dienststelle in Horn/Lippe. Dort gab es keine medizinische und auch keine biologische Abteilung.

F: Sind Sie oft in Berlin tätig gewesen?

A: Nein, niemals.

F: Es ist Ihnen aber bekannt, dass sich in Berlin eine medizinische und biologische Abteilung befand?

A: Soweit mir erinnerlich ist, gab es bis zum Kriegsausbruch weder eine medizinische noch eine biologische Abteilung innerhalb Ahnenerbe.

F: Kannten Sie einen Herrn namens [illegible]?

A: Herr Ventzel ist mir den Namen nach bekannt als der Präsident des Reichsforschungsrates.

F: Hatte das mit Ahnenerbe etwas zu tun?

A: Der Reichsgeschäftsführer von Ahnenerbe, der ehemalige SS-Standartenführer Wolfram SIEVERS wurde später Vertreter des Präsidenten des Reichsforschungsrates.

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13. Juni-ASchw-2-Röder

F: Haben Sie eng zusammengearbeitet oder Verbindung miteinander gehabt?

A: Ich weiss nur etwas von einer Verbindung. Ich weiss nichts von einer Personalunion.

F: Wissen Sie ob in gewissen Abteilungen des Ahnenerbe Experimente durchgeführt worden sind an Insassen von Konzentrationslagern?

A: Nach Beendigung dieses Krieges wurde mir durch die [illegible]ierte und deutsche Presse bekannt, dass es derartige Experimente gegeben haben soll.

F: Kannten Sie Prof. HIRT?

A: Ich kenne ihn weder dem Namen, noch seinem Auftreten nach.

F: Wissen Sie zu welchem Zeitpunkt Sievers Stellvertreter des Präsidenten des Reichsforschungsamtes wurde?

A: Der ehemalige SS-Standartenführer Sievers befindet sich im Zeugenflügel und ich glaube es wäre besser, ihn selbst zu vernehmen.

F: Es steht Ihnen eigentlich nicht zu, Fragen vorzuschlagen, sondern die Fragen zu beantworten, die ich Ihnen stelle. Sagen Sie mir bitte Ihrem Wissen nach, wann wurde Sievers, Stellvertreter des Präsidenten des Reichsforschungsamtes?

A: Ich bitte Sie um Verzeigung wegen des unerlaubten Vorschlages und ich beantworte Ihre Frage, ich glaube es ist erst während des Krieges so gewesen.

F: Können Sie über den Zeitpunkt noch genauere Angaben machen?

A: Nein.

F: Woher wissen Sie, dass er Stellvertreter wurde? Die Mitglieder des Ahnenerben an der kämpfenden Front, bekamen jährlich einen Bericht über die Tätigkeit des Ahnenerben in der Heimat.

F: So ist Ihnen also der Bescheid zugegangen, dass Sievers der Stellvertreter des Präsidenten des Forschungsamtes war?

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A: Ich glaube, dass ich es daher habe.

F: Aber Sie können sich trotzdem nicht an die genaue Zeit erinnern?

A: Nein, ich stand während des Krieges durch meine Soldatenlaufbahn nur in ganz lockerer Verbindung mit den Ahnenerben.

F: Wissen Sie in welchem Jah deine Ernennung erfolgte, in dieser Stellung?

A: Ich vermute, es war 1941, genau kann ich es allerdings nicht sagen.

F: Auf welche Art und Weise wurden den Mitgliedern des Ahnenerbe ihres Amtes, Informationen zugeleitet?

A: In Form eines jeweils zur Weihnachtszeit den Mitgliedern übersandten Arbeitsberichtes, der aber nicht in vertrauliche Informationen überging.

F: Und dieser Arbeitsbericht gab Ihnen auch wichtige Änderungen innerhalb des Stabes des Ahnenerben bekannt?

A: Nein.

F: Er gab Ihnen aber einen allgemeinen Bericht über die Arbeit des Ahnenerben?

A: Nur in allgemeiner Form wurde in diesen Berichten gesagt, der Reichsführer der SS hat das Ahnenerben während des Krieges mit weiteren, wichtigen Forschungsaufgaben betraut.

F: Wurden in diesem Heft niemals die medizinischen und biologischen Untersuchungen und Experimente erwähnt?

A: In den Heften, die an mich gekommen sind keinesfalls. Sie müssen bedenken, dass ich nicht zuhause war, wenn diese Hefte kamen. Sie wurden mir unter Umständen von meiner Frau an die Front geschickt und ich habe sie nur ganz flüchtig überflogen, da ich andere Gedanken im Kopfe hatte.

F: Wie lange sind Sie während des Krieges in Berlin gewesen ?

A: Vom November 1941 bis 15. August 1943. Denn, nach meiner Versetzung vom 5. Gebirgskorps vom November 1944 bis zu m Vormarsch der Roten Armee an die Oder.

F: Sagen Sie, dass als Sie in Berlin waren, nicht Fühlung mit Ahnenerben hatten?

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A: Ich habe während dieser Zeit nur 2 mal eine ganz kurze Fühlung mit Ahnenerben gehabt.

F: Und bei welcher Gelegenheit?

A: Im ersten Falle schlug mir der Kurator des Ahnenerben der ehemalige SS oberführer Prof. Dr. Walter WÜST vor, einen seiner Mitarbeiter als Dolmetscher in die Kompanie der Waffen-SS einzureihen.

F: Und was war der 2. Anlass?

A: Beim zweitenmale bin ich zu der Reichsgeschäftsstelle des Ahnenerbe gegangen um von Sievers die Erlaubnis zu erwirken, dass er mir das Haus des Ah in Horn/Lippe zur Verfügung stelle, damit ich meine Dolmetscher-Kompanie aus dem bombengefährdeten Bereich Berlins aus dienstlichen Zwecken herauszichen konnte.

F: Was war der Zweck des Hauses in Lippe?

A: In diesem Hause in Horn waren mehrere wissenschaftliche Abteilungen des Ahnenerben untergebracht. Und unter anderem ich selbst auch.

F: Und welche andere Forschungsabteilungen befanden sich dort?

A: Zwei: die Abteilung fur germanische Sprachen und für deutsche Psychologie, Kultur und Wissenschaft.

F: Befanden sich sonst keine weiteren Abteilungen dort?

A: Es war eine weitere Abteilung dort, die sich mit der Erforschung der Hornsteine, die ein altes germanisches Heiligtum gewesen sein sollen, befasste.

F: Und sonst keine weitere Abteilung?

A: Nein, wenigstens bis zu meinem Eintritt in die Waffen-SS. Über die späteren Vorgänge bin ich nicht unterrichtet.

F: Und nun möchte ich einige Angaben über Ihre militärische Laufbahn wissen.

Auf welchem Kriegsschauplatz sind Sie gewesen?

A: Ich bin vom 22. Juni bis 8. Oktober 1941 in Russland gewesen.

F: In welchem Bezirk?

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A: Einzig und allein in der Ukraine.

F: Und später?

A: Später vom 3. Februar 1944 bis 15. Oktober 1944 auf dem Südwest-Balkan.

F: Ist das alles?

A: Jawohl.

F: Hatten die Dolmetscher Anweisungen über besondere Nachrichtenarbeit, besonders über Verhöre von Kriegsgefangenen?

A: Ja, das Verhör von Kriegsgefangenen wurde auf der Dolmetscherschule oder vorher in der Dolmetscherkompanie genau durchgespielt.

F: Welche Lehrer waren es für diese Art des Unterrichtes?

A: Es gab dafür viele Lehrer, fast für jede Sprache einen, die zum Teil von der Dolmetscherlehrabteilung im OKH, zum Teil aber von mir selbst ausgebildet worden sind.

F: Sind Ihnen Lehrer von der Abwehr der Wehrmacht zugegangen?

A: Bis zum 15. August 1943 nicht. Über die späteren Verhältnisse kann ich nicht urteilen.

F: Und haben Sie von der Sipo welche bekommen?

A: Nein.

F: Und vom SD?

A: Ebenfalls nicht.

F: Aber wer hat in dieser Schule die allgemeinen Richtlinien und Auskünfte gegeben über das Verhör von Kriegsgefangenen, über die wichtigsten Punkte und über das was man aus dem Gefangenen herausholen wollte?

A: Allgemeine und besondere Richtlinien bekamen wir bis zu meinem Abgang von der Dolmetscher-Lehrabteilung im OKH!

F: Welcher Abteilung wurden die Gefangenen übergeben, die Sie aus Kommandos oder anderen Einheiten bekamen?

A: Sie wurden bei der Abteilung Ic verhört.

F: Und welcher allgemeinen Organisation gehörte diese Abteilung an?

A: Es ist ein Teil des taktischen Führungsstabes.

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13. Juni-ASchw-6-Röder

F: Von der Waffen-SS-Einheit in der sie waren.

A: Jawohl.

F: Hatten Sie neben Vertretern der Waffen SS auch Vertreter des Heeres in der Abteilung Ic?

A: Aus meiner eignen Erfahrung kann ich dazu folgendes sagen Es wurden von der Armee dem Korps verschiedentlich Ordonanzoffiziere zugeschickt um schwierige Verhöre durchzuführen.

F: Waren die Angehörigen der Abteilung Ic auch manchmal Angehörige des SD?

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A: In meiner Einheit nicht.

F: Wissen Sie von anderen Einheiten, wo das zugetroffen hat?

A: Nein.

F: Wem haben Sie nach Verhoeren, Angehoerige der Kommandotrupps uebergeben?

A: Die Angehoerigen der alliierten Kommandotrupps wurden nach ihren Vernehmungen bei dem Generalkommando Abteilung Ic entweder in sehr wichtigen Faellen der Armee oder in weniger wichtigen Faellen der Kriegsgefangenensammelstelle zugeleitet und von dort in die Kriegsgefangenenlager innerhalb des Reichsgebietes ueberfuehrt.

F: Als Sie in Russland waren, kaempfte da Ihre Einheit gegen die Sowjet-Armee oder gegen die Partisanen?

A: Sie kaempften 1941 bis zu meinem Weggang in Russland ausschliesslich gegen Fronteinheiten der Roten Armee.

F: Hatte Ihre Einheitsfuehrung mit den Einsatzgruppen etwas zu tun.

A: Ich hatte bereits gestern Gelegenheit zu sagen, dass mir der Begriff "Einsatzgruppen" fremd ist.

MR. MONERAY: Danke, ich habe keine Fragen mehr.

COL. ORLOW: Sie haben gesagt, dass Sie im Osten waren.

Ist das wahr?

A: Jawohl.

F: Sie sagten nicht spaeter?

A: Sie meinen doch mit der russischen Front das Staatsgebiet der U.d.S.S.R. ?

Meinen Sie mit der russischen Front das eigentliche Staatsgebiet der U.d.S.S.R. ?

F: Sind Ihnen die Weisungen des OKH bekannt, die die Anwendung von Gewalttaetigkeiten und Willkuer der deutschen Truppen gegen die Zivilbevoelkerung in den besetzten Gebieten im Osten erlauben.

DR. KOESSEL: Ich fuerchte, dass aus der unbeantworteten Frage spaeter Schwierigkeiten entstehen. Die Frage lautet:

Meinen Sie mit der russischen Front das eigentliche Staatsgebiet der U.d.S.S.R. ?

VORSITZENDER: Herr Anklagevertreter, die Antwort auf die Frage ist noch nicht gegeben worden. Wenn Sie die Beantwortung der Frage wuenschen, dann bitte. Wenn nicht, auch gut.

COL. ORLOW: Bitte antworten Sie.

ZEUGE: Ich habe die russische Front nur auf dem Hoheitsgebiet der Sowjet-Union kennengelernt.

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F: Sind Ihnen die Weisungen des OKH bekannt, die die Anwendung von Gewalttaetigkeiten und Willkuer, den deutschen Truppen gegen die Zivilbevoelkerung in den besetzten Gebieten im Osten empfehlen?

(Col. Orlow zeigt dem Zeugen ein Dokument.)

A: Als ich an den Kaempfen an der Ostffront teilnahm besass ich einen Dienstgrad, der mir einen derartigen Befehl nicht zugaengig machte. Dieser Befehl ist mir erst spaeter nach dem Zusammenbruch bekannt geworden. Ich kann aber bestaetigen, dass dieser Befehl in unserem Korpsbereich im Suedosten nicht ausgefuehrt wurde, sondern dass Uebergriffe der eigenen Truppen gegenueber der Zivilbevoelkerung strengstens bestraft wurden, wie ich schon [illegible] durch Beispiele belegen konnte.

F: Von welchem Befehl sprechen Sie?

A: Ich spreche von dem Befehl, den mir der Herr russische Anklagevertreter soeben verlesen hat.

F: Wussten Sie etwas ueber die Richtlinien des OKH betreffs Behandlung politischer Offiziere vom 31.3.1941.
Ich werde Ihnen das zeigen. (Zeigt ihm ein Dokument.)

A: Nein, diesen Befehl konnte ich im Osten nicht kennen, weil es sich um eine "Chef-Sache fuer Offiziere" handelte und d.h., dass er nur bis zum kommandierenden General und seinem Vertreter, dem Chef des Stabes, bekannt gegeben worden ist.

F: Hatten Sie auch Kenntnis ueber einen anderen Befehl des Reichsfuehrers SS vom 16. Dezember 1942 betreffs Richtlinien ueber das Bandentum?

A: Als dieser Befehl erschien, war ich nicht in einem hoeheren Stab gewesen, Es handelt sich bei diesem Befehl um eine "Geheime Kommandosache", die mir auch wiederum nicht zugaengig gemacht werden konnte.

F: Haben Sie vielleicht etwas gehoert ueber einen Erlass des Fuehrers des OKW betreffs Kommunistische Banden, die im Osten eingesetzt wurden, vom 6. September 1941. In diesem Dokument steht, dass fuer einen Deutschen fuenfzig Kommunisten totgeschlagen werden.

A: Dieser Befehl ist mir bedeutend spaeter bekannt geworden und zwar erst bei der Neubearbeitung der Heeresdruckvorschrift 69/II im Dezember 1944. Dieser Befehl ist nur in 40 Kopien ausgefertigt worden, mit der hoechsten Geheimstufe.

F: In welcher Heeresgruppe waren Sie an der Ostfront?

A: In der Heeresgruppe Sued.

F: Wer war da Oberbefehlshaber?

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A: Der Generalfeldmarschall von Rundstedt, soviel mir bekannt ist.

F: Kannten Sie einen Befehl des Generals von Reichenau? In diesem Befehl gab General von Reichenau bekannt, dass im Osten Menschenleben nichts kosten.

A: Dieser Befehl wurde mir erst hier im Zeugenfluegel durch Gespraeche mit Kameraden bekannt.

F: Hatten Sie diesen Befehl nicht vom Generalstab des Heeres bekommen?

A: Ich arbeitete erst in einem hoeheren Stab vom 15. August 1943 und bei den Akten der Abteilung Ic war fuer den Suedosten dieser Befehl nicht vorhanden.

DR. KOESSEL: Darf ich eine Frage stellen.
General von Reichenau war nur ein Armeefuehrer. Ich verstehe nicht wie die Frage mit dem Generalstab des Heeres zusammenhaengt.

VORSITZENDER: Der Herr Anklagevertreter kann Fragen stellen und der Zeuge kann dann feststellen, ob eine Verbindung bestanden hat oder nicht.

COL. ORLOW: Haben Sie nicht gehoert, dass dieser Befehl des Generals von Reichenau, der der Oberkommandierende der 6. Armee war, vom Fuehrer genehmigt und an alle Armeen geschickt worden ist.

A: In Gespraechen mit den Angehoerigen unserer Generalkommandos sind verschiedentlich derartige Befehle genannt worden, ohne eine genaue Signierung des betreffenden Befehls. In vertraulichen Aeusserungen wurde dieser Befehl als bloedsinnig bezeichnet.

F: Gestern haben Sie gesagt, dass ein paar SS-Leute Verbrechen gegen die Zivilbevoelkerung veruebt hatten und dafuer bestraft worden waren. Ist das wahr?

A: Jawohl.

F: Haben Sie etwas gehoert ueber "organisieren", z.B. ein Schwein organisieren, ein Huhn organisieren usw.?

A: Jawohl.

F: Bedeutet dieses Wort "stehlen"?

A: Das deutsche Slang-wort der Soldatensprache "organisieren" kann im juristischem Sinne zweierlei bedeuten, einmal stehlen und im anderen Falle, sich eines Gegenstandes bemaechtigen in einem Kampfgebiet in dem es eine Zivilbevoelkerung auf absehbare Zeit nicht mehr geben wird.

F: Und sind die Soldaten fuer dieses "organisieren" auch bestraft worden oder nicht?

A: Wenn die Zivilbevoelkerung einwandfrei nachweisen konnte, dass derartiges

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Gut ihr widerrechtlich weggenommen wurde, dann wurde dieser Fall strafrechtlich verfolgt.

F: Wissen Sie Faelle, wo Gefangene geschlagen oder sogar totgeschlagen worden waren?

A: Solange ich einem hoeheren Stab angehoert habe sind weder in diesem Stab noch in den unterstellten Divisionsstaebe Gefangene des Gegners geschlagen, nicht einmal einem verschaerften Verhoer unterworfen worden.

F: Koennen Sie sagen, ob Sie wussten, was ueberall geschehen war?

A: Die Vorgaenge bei dem eigenen Stab kenne ich als Augenzeuge. Die Vorgaenge bei den unterstellten Staeben behaupte ich deshalb so, weil von Seiten des kommandierenden Generals der allergroesste Wert darauf gelegt wurde, dass etwas derartiges nicht vorkommen durfte. Natuerlich kann ich nicht unter Eid aussagen, dass in den unterstellten Staeben nicht einmal etwas derartiges, ohne meine Kenntnis, vorgekommen sein kann.

F: Welche Befehle ueber die verschaerften Verhoere sind Ihnen bekannt?

A: Nicht ein einziger.

F: Warum haben Sie vorhin gesagt, dass es nicht einmal ein verschaerftes Verhoer gab. Was bedeutet das Wort "verschaerftes Verhoer"?

A: Der Ausdruck "verschaerftes Verhoer" wurde lebhaft bei den Abteilungen Ic der Wehrmacht und der Waffen-SS diskutiert, weil wir Ic Unterlagenmaterial vom OKW bekamen, in dem die Gegner uns vorwarfen, dass angeblich derartige, verschaerfte Verhoere bei uns, das heisst bei der Wehrmacht, vorgekommen sein sollen. In diesem Material legte das OKW Beispiele vor, dass bei den gegnerischen Armeen derartig geschilderte Verhoere in verschiedensten Faellen angewendet worden sein sollen.

F: Haben Sie etwas gehoert ueber die Anweisung Himmlers betreffs der Behandlung politischer Feinde des Faschismus?

A: Ich hatte erst hier im Zeugenfluegel Gelegenheit zu erfahren, als ueber die Vernehmung des SS-Obergruppenfuehrers von dem Bach-Zelewski gesprochen wurde, dass Himmler eine Rede auf der Wewelsburg mit einer derartig vertraulichen Anweisung gehalten haben soll.

F: Und frueher haben Sie nichts darueber gehoert?

A: Es gab ein Gerücht, das verbreitet war, wonach der Reichsfuehrer SS den beruehmten Ausdruck gebraucht haben soll, dass es 30 Millionen Slaven zuviel gaebe.

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COL. ORLOW: Danke, ich habe keine Fragen mehr.

VORSITZENDER: Herr Verteidiger haben Sie noch weitere Fragen?

DR. KOESSEL: Ich habe nur eine kleine Frage.

F: Sie haben die Abteilung Ic erwaehnt. Haben Sie mit dieser Abteilung eine Abteilung verstanden, die in jedem Generalstab, sowohl des Heeres wie der Waffen-SS bestanden hat, oder haben Sie eine typische Abteilung der SS verstanden?

A: Selbstverstaendlich meinte ich damit die Abteilung Ic die es bei allen Teilen der deutschen, wie der auslaendischen Wehrmacht gibt, beim Heer, der Marine, der Luftwaffe und der Waffen-SS.

DR. KOESSEL: Danke sehr, ich habe keine weiteren Fragen mehr.

VORSITZENDER: Noch weitere Fragen?

Der Zeuge kann sich zurueckziehen.

Es waere eine gute Zeit eine Pause von 10 Minuten eintreten zu lassen.

(10 Minuten pause)

Das Vorstehende ist eine wahre und richtige Niederschrift der Aussagen vom 13.6.194

Unterschrieben: Stefan Roeder
Gerichtsstenograph

Beglaubigt: Mr. George R. Taylor
Beauftragter

Das Vorstehende ist eine wahre und richtige Niederschrift der Aussage vom 13. Juni 1946, von 10,00 - 11:30 Uhr.

Unterschrieben: Stefan R o e d e r
Gerichtsstenograph

Beglaubigt: Geo. R. Taylor
Beauftragter.